

SHIPMAN
Appln. No. 10/532,106
March 20, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 29-54 now stand in the present application having replaced existing claims 1-24 and 27. Reconsideration and favorable action is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 13-18 for a number of informalities. As noted above, these claims have been replace and accordingly the Examiner's rejection of these claims is believed to be moot.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-24 and 27 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kraay et al. and has rejected claims 8 and 20 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Kraay et al. in view of De I'Etraz et al. The Examiner's §102 and §103 rejections of the claims are believed to be overcome and mooted by the cancellation of the existing claims in lieu of newly added claims 29-54, as will be explained in greater detail below.

Kraay is directed to the analysis of very large amounts of information for law enforcement and/or the intelligence community, which include a variety of data (e.g. column 3 lines 58 to 64). Thus, the information in three databases (12, 14, 32) are combined in the way shown in Figure 1 of Kraay, to realize the relationships between the disparate data contained in the databases. In Kraay, no user record having the claimed structure of Applicant's invention, is generated for subsequent searching using, e.g., linked information in the manner claimed. More particularly, Kraay does not teach or suggest generating user records having "a first field for holding data about the first user", "a second filed for holding data about at least one second user, obtained from a database of the first user" and "a third field for holding linked data identifying at least one other record" as required by the newly added claims 29-54. Support for Applicant's claimed user record structure can be found in the present specification at page 15, line 3 to page 16, line 11.

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Instead, the output of the processes shown in Figure 1 of Kraay is a visual mapping of telephone numbers on a mapping plane based on the strength of their relationship to each other. See Kraay at column 5, line 5 to column 6, line 9. Thus, Kraay does not teach or suggest independent claims 29 and 41 which require the above described record structure. Nor does Kraay teach or suggest dependent claims 30-40 and 42-54 which provide further limitations regarding, for example, the searching of records having the claimed record structure.

The Examiner has merely cited De I'Etraz et al. for disclosing the capability of "identifying the users record of the user making the search request". (See page 11 of the Office Action). Accordingly, it should be clear that De I'Etraz et al. does not solve the deficiencies noted above with respect to Kraay et al.

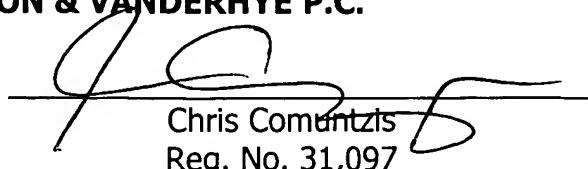
Accordingly, all of claims 29-54 are believed patentably defined over the cited references taken either singly or in combination.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 29-54, now standing in the application, be allowed and that the case is passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining that this Examiner believes can be resolved with a supplemental response or Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Chris Comentzis
Reg. No. 31,097

CC:slj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808